



FIG. 1. *Bothrops leucurus* with a freshly ingested *Leptodactylus troglodytes* in the stomach (MUFAL 15963): A) prey partially in the stomach; B, C) *B. leucurus* and *L. troglodytes* in dorsal view, respectively. Scale bar = 1 cm.

normally found on the ground in areas with herbaceous vegetation and flooded natural and urbanized areas (Kokubum et al. 2009. Herpetol. J. 19:119–126). Here, we describe the first record of *B. leucurus* preying upon *L. troglodytes*.

At 0600 h on 32 August 2019, we captured a subadult *B. leucurus* (MUFAL 15963: 300.05 mm SVL, 13.27 mm head width; Fig. 1A, B) on the ground at the margins of a forest remnant between the edge of the forest and a monoculture of Sugar Cane (*Saccharum officinarum*) in Cariri da Prensa Farm, Municipality of Boca da Mata, Alagoas, Brazil (9.69051°S, 36.20070°W; WGS 84; 94 m elev.; SISBio/ICMBIO 54413-4). After collection, the specimen was euthanized with 2% lidocaine, fixed in 10% formalin, and preserved in 70% ethanol. We dissected the specimen and found a well-preserved adult female *L. troglodytes* (MUFAL 15963 [stomach contents]: 51.38 mm SVL; 16.38 mm head width; Fig. 1A, C), which was later incorporated into the Coleção Herpetológica do Museu de História Natural da Universidade Federal de Alagoas (MUFAL). This observation corroborates the batracophagous habits of juvenile vipers (Bernarde 2012, *op. cit.*) and the high SVL (1/6) and HW (0.8/1) ratio underscores the large size of prey that are sometimes consumed.

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BUNGARUS CAERULEUS (Common Krait). LEUCISM. *Bungarus caeruleus* is a nocturnal venomous snake that feeds mainly on other snakes and is known to be cannibalistic (Parmar and Tank 2019. Rept. Amphib. 26:21–34). The body is glossy black or bluish or brownish black above with paired white cross bands, which are usually absent on fore body or are substituted by white vertebral spots, the ventral scales are white in color and



FIG. 1. Leucistic *Bungarus caeruleus* from Goa, India.

the vertebral scales are hexagonal (Smith 1943. The Fauna of British India, Including Ceylon and Burma. Reptilia and Amphibia. Vol III-Serpentes. Taylor and Francis, London, England. 526 pp.; Das 2003. J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 100:446–501). Herein, we reported first record of leucism in *B. caeruleus* from Goa, India.

Recently, we came across a dead leucistic specimen of *B. caeruleus* (Fig. 1). The individual (Bombay Natural History Society Museum [BNHS] 3576: 129.7 cm total length; 115.2 cm SVL, 340 g) was white with black eyes and lacked any other pigmentation on the body. The individual was encountered on 9 December 2018 at ca. 2030 h at Porvorim, Goa, India (15.4903°N, 73.8108°E; WGS 84). The snake was identified as *B. caeruleus* with the help of keys (Daniel 1983. The Book of Indian Reptiles. Oxford University Press, Bombay, India. 141 pp.; Whitaker and Captain 2008. Snakes of India, The Field Guide. Draco Books, Chennai, India. 469 pp.). Specifically, the specimen exhibited dorsal scales 15:15:15; preoculars 1; postoculars 2; temporals 1 + 2; supralabials 7; 3rd and 4th supralabials in contact with eye; loreal absent; anal plate undivided; subcaudals entire; ventrals 213; subcaudals 41. The individual encountered had normal black eyes and a blackish top of the snout and head.

A complete albino *B. caeruleus* was rescued on 8 October 2009 by Sandesh Amonkar, a member Animal Rescue Squad at Ponda (15.4909°N, 73.8278°E; WGS 84), Goa, India. The individual rescued from Ponda lacked any pigment and had red eyes), while the individual described in the present study is leucistic (lacking body pigment but with black or blue eyes). Leucism in snakes is uncommon, but may be more commonly recorded in nocturnal, crepuscular, or burrowing species that are less vulnerable to visual predators.

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CHILABOTHRUS CHRYSOGASTER CHRYSOGASTER (Turks Island Boa). DIET. *Chilabothrus chrysogaster chrysogaster* consumes a variety of small- to medium-sized endothermic and ectothermic prey (Reynolds and Gerber 2012. J. Herpetol. 46:578–586). On small islands, adults and juveniles are largely saurophagous (Reynolds and Niemiller 2011. Herpetol. Rev. 42:290) and are known to prey on four of the six native lizard species found on the Caicos Bank, plus the introduced *Hemidactylus*

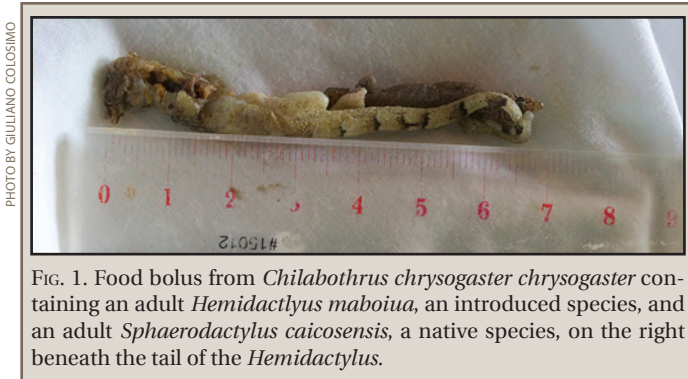


FIG. 1. Food bolus from *Chilabothrus chrysogaster chrysogaster* containing an adult *Hemidactylus maboiua*, an introduced species, and an adult *Sphaerodactylus caicosensis*, a native species, on the right beneath the tail of the *Hemidactylus*.

maboiua (Reynolds et al. 2017. Herpetol. Rev. 48:857). We have observed direct predation on the following native lizard species: *Leiocephalus psammomdromus*, *Cyclura carinata*, *Anolis scriptus*, and *Aristelliger hechti*. We have yet to document *C. chrysogaster* using the skink *Spondylurus caicosensis* or the dwarf gecko *Sphaerodactylus caicosensis* as prey. The skink is cryptic and exists at low-density throughout its range, while the dwarf gecko is locally abundant and widespread and thus would seem to represent a profitable food source for smaller boas.

At 1918 h on 8 March 2020 we captured a young adult female *C. c. chrysogaster* (512 mm SVL; 26 g). The animal subsequently regurgitated a food bolus containing two nearly-intact gecko carcasses (Fig. 1). One was an introduced *H. maboiua* (ca. 40–45 mm SVL), previously reported as a novel food item for this species (Reynolds et al. 2017, *op. cit.*), the other was an adult female *Sphaerodactylus caicosensis* (30 mm SVL), a species not previously documented as a prey item. *Sphaerodactylus caicosensis* are common on the island and found among the many rock piles that *C. chrysogaster* occupies, hence it is likely (and was long suspected) that this species serves as an important food resource for younger *C. chrysogaster*.

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CLONOPHIS KIRTLANDII (Kirtland's Snake). ACTIVITY. *Clonophis kirtlandii* is a small, semi-aquatic, fossorial natricine snake found in the midwestern United States. Little is known about its natural history due to its cryptic habits. *Clonophis kirtlandii* inhabits grassy areas adjacent to ponds, creeks, and ditches (Bavetz 1994. Trans. Illinois State Acad. Sci. 87:151–163). Its diet consists mostly of soft-bodied invertebrates (Minton 2001. Amphibians and Reptiles of Indiana. Indiana University Press, Indianapolis, Indiana. 404 pp.). *Clonophis kirtlandii* are known to hibernate in crayfish burrows from October to late March (Felbaum et al. 1995. Endangered and Threatened Species of Pennsylvania. Wild Resource Conservation Fund, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. 80 pp.). In some states they have been observed in all months but are most active in March–April and October (Minton 2001, *op. cit.*).

Conant (1943. Am. Midl. Nat. 29:313–341) stated that “specimens have been collected in every month except December” but that they are “apt to be found on mild days, even in midwinter... coated with mud and still sluggish from the cold.” Two specimens (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution [USNM] 33845, 33846) were collected 19 December 1902 in Grant County, Indiana, USA and one (Illinois Natural History Survey [INHS] 10609) was collected 19 December 1978 in Fulton County, Illinois, USA.

At 1300 h on 26 December 2019, near the Killdeer Plains Wildlife area, in Harpster, Ohio, USA (40.71737°N, 83.35512°W; WGS 84), MA observed a juvenile *C. kirtlandii* on the edge of a recently disturbed field adjacent to a cleared pathway where the vegetation was cleared down to the substrate. It appeared that the snake had dried substrate on its body from the moist ground, which created a contrast against the vegetation, making the snake easier to spot. Upon approach the snake remained still, which allowed for some images to be taken, before it moved off into denser vegetation. The observation was made under a mostly overcast sky with a temperature of 15°C (60°F). No morphometric data were collected. This is an unusual time of year to observe this species in Ohio.

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CORALLUS HORTULANA (Suaçuboia). MALE COMBAT. In some snake lineages, confrontations between conspecific males at certain times of the year can result in physical fights, termed male combat, for priority-of-access to females or other resources (Shine 1978. Oecologia 33:269–278; Shine et al. 2000. Anim. Behav. 59:4–11). In general, these behaviors begin with intimidating postures, such as arching the body, which can accompany physical combat. Males of some species assume subtle aggressive behaviors, in which individuals keep part of their bodies intertwined in a horizontal position; most of the time they push the adversary in an attempt to take down the opponent when they are in a vertical position (Carpenter et al. 1978. Herpetologica 34:207–212). Combat in nonvenomous species, including pythonids, can include biting (Shine 1994. Copeia 1994:326–346). Larger males are often successful in combat events (Andren 1986. Amphibia-Reptilia 7:353–383) and may gain priority access to females (Madsen and Shine 1993. Am. Nat. 141:167–171).

Corallus hortulana is a species of arboreal boid that is widely distributed in northern South America. It is slender, laterally-flattened, and exhibits great variation in coloration, including shades of orange, red, yellow, beige, gray and brown. On average, females are larger than males (Castro et al. 2016. Répteis da Restinga do Parque Estadual Paula César Vinha. First edition. Centro Universitário São Camilo, Guarapari, Brazil. 95 pp.). Here, we report an instance of apparent male combat in *C. hortulana*.

On 25 October 2019, at 0630 h, in the Parque Estadual de Dois Irmãos, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil (8.125°S, 34.875°W; WGS 84; 28 m elev.), two adult male *C. hortulana* were found in combat. The individuals were intertwined and perched in a tree ca. 180 cm above the ground. Approximately 10 min later, they fell from the branch to the ground, but remained entwined until 1520 h (Fig. 1A); immediately after separating, they were captured. Male 1 (163.6 cm SVL, 32.5 cm tail length, 820 g) was likely a resident; it had been captured and recaptured three times in the same